

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method of bookmarking a voice message comprising the step of marking the voice message in a first bookmark location with a first bookmark such that a listener accesses the voice message at the first bookmark location by selecting the first bookmark.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the first bookmark location is selected by the listener.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the listener is a recipient.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the first bookmark location is selected by a person other than the recipient.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein the person is an author of the voice message.

6. The method of claim 4 wherein the person is an editor of the voice message.

7. The method of claim 3 wherein the first bookmark location is selected by the recipient.

1 8. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of marking the voice  
2 message in a second bookmark location with a second bookmark such that the listener  
3 accesses the voice message at the second bookmark location by selecting the second  
4 bookmark.

1 9. The method of claim 8 wherein the listener is a recipient.

1 10. The method of claim 9 wherein the first and second bookmark locations  
2 are selected by a person other than the recipient and further wherein the first and  
3 second bookmarks indicate sections of the voice message.

1 11. The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of marking the voice  
2 message at additional bookmark locations with additional bookmarks such that the  
3 listener accesses the voice message at the additional bookmarks by selecting the  
4 additional bookmarks.

1 12. The method of claim 1 wherein the first bookmark location is selected  
2 during an utterance and further wherein the first bookmark location is moved to an  
3 utterance beginning location.

1 13. The method of claim 12 wherein the utterance beginning location is  
2 found using an intelligent search.

1 14. The method of claim 13 wherein the intelligent search includes a voice  
2 processing technique.

1           15.           The method of claim 14 wherein the voice processing technique utilizes  
2 a voice parameter, the voice parameter being selected from the group consisting of an  
3 amplitude, a plosive, a pitch change, a number recognition, a word recognition, and a  
4 combination thereof.

1           16.           The method of claim 1 wherein the first bookmark location is selected  
2 by a listener and further wherein the first bookmark location is moved backward in  
3 time by a specific time duration.

1           17.           The method of claim 1 wherein the first bookmark location is selected  
2 using a user interface.

1           18.           The method of claim 17 wherein the user interface is selected from the  
2 group consisting of a graphical user interface, a telephone user interface, a mechanical  
3 user interface, and a voice command user interface.

1           19.           The method of claim 1 wherein the first bookmark location is accessed  
2 by a listener by selecting the first bookmark using a user interface.

1           20.           The method of claim 19 wherein the user interface is selected from the  
2 group consisting of a graphical user interface, a telephone user interface, a mechanical  
3 user interface, and a voice command user interface.

1           21.           The method of claim 1 wherein the first bookmark location is selected  
2 automatically by a search and locate pattern matching technique.

1           22.           An apparatus for bookmarking a voice message comprising:

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- a. a storage media for storing the voice message;
- b. a processing unit coupled to the storage media; and
- c. a user interface coupled to the processing unit such that a user places a first bookmark at a first bookmark location within the voice message using the user interface.

1 23. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the user places a second bookmark  
2 at a second bookmark location within the voice message using the user interface.

1 24. The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the user places additional bookmarks  
2 at additional bookmark locations within the voice message using the user interface.

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25. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the first bookmark is selected during an utterance and further wherein the first bookmark is moved to an utterance beginning location.

1 26. The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the utterance beginning location is  
2 found using a voice processing technique.

1 27. The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the voice processing technique  
2 utilizes a voice parameter, the voice parameter being selected from the group  
3 consisting of an amplitude, a plosive, a pitch change, a number recognition, a word  
4 recognition, and a combination thereof.

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28. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the first bookmark location is moved backward in time by a specific time duration.

1           29.           The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the user interface is selected from  
2           the group consisting of a graphical user interface, a telephone user interface, a  
3           mechanical user interface, and a voice command user interface.

1           30.           An apparatus for accessing a bookmarked voice message comprising:  
2           a.           a storage media for storing the bookmarked voice message;  
3           b.           a processing unit coupled to the storage media; and  
4           c.           a user interface coupled to the processing unit such that a listener  
5           accesses a first bookmark location within the bookmarked voice message  
6           by selecting a first bookmark using the user interface.

1           31.           The apparatus of claim 30 wherein the listener accesses a second  
2           bookmark location within the bookmarked voice message by selecting a second  
3           bookmark using the user interface.

1           32.           The apparatus of claim 31 wherein the listener accesses additional  
2           bookmark locations within the bookmarked voice message by selecting additional  
3           bookmarks using the user interface.

1           33.           The apparatus of claim 30 wherein the user interface is selected from  
2           the group consisting of a graphical user interface, a telephone user interface, a  
3           mechanical user interface, and a voice command user interface.

1           34.           An article of manufacture comprising a computer readable medium  
2           bearing computer program code embodied therein for use with a computer, the  
3           computer program code including means for marking the voice message in a first

4 bookmark location with a first bookmark such that in operation a listener accesses the  
5 voice message at the first bookmark location by selecting the first bookmark.

1 35. The article of manufacture of claim 34 further including means for  
2 marking the voice message in a second bookmark location with a second bookmark  
3 such that in operation the listener accesses the voice message at the second bookmark  
4 location by selecting the second bookmark.

1 36. The article of manufacture of claim 35 wherein in operation the first  
2 and second bookmark locations are selected by a person other than the listener and  
3 further wherein the first and second bookmarks indicate sections of the voice message.

1 37. The article of manufacture of claim 34 wherein in operation the first  
2 bookmark location is selected by a person other than the listener.

1 38. The article of manufacture of claim 34 wherein in operation the first  
2 bookmark location is selected by the listener.

1 39. The article of manufacture of claim 34 wherein in operation the first  
2 bookmark location is selected during an utterance and further wherein the first  
3 bookmark location is moved to an utterance beginning location.

1 40. The article of manufacture of claim 39 wherein in operation the  
2 utterance beginning location is found using a voice processing technique.

1 41. The article of manufacture of claim 40 wherein in operation the voice  
2 processing technique utilizes a voice parameter, the voice parameter being selected

3 from the group consisting of an amplitude, a plosive, a pitch change, a number  
4 recognition, a word recognition, and a combination thereof.

1 42. The article of manufacture of claim 34 wherein in operation the first  
2 bookmark location is selected by the listener and further wherein in operation the first  
3 bookmark location is moved backward in time by a specific time duration.

1 43. The article of manufacture of claim 34 wherein in operation the first  
2 bookmark location is selected using a user interface.

1 44. The article of manufacture of claim 43 wherein the user interface is  
2 selected from the group consisting of a graphical user interface, a telephone user  
3 interface, a mechanical user interface, and a voice command user interface.

1 45. The article of manufacture of claim 34 wherein in operation the first  
2 bookmark location is accessed by the listener by selecting the first bookmark using a  
3 user interface.

1 46. The article of manufacture of claim 45 wherein the user interface is  
2 selected from the group consisting of a graphical user interface, a telephone user  
3 interface, a mechanical user interface, and voice command user interface.

1 47. The article of manufacture of claim 34 wherein in operation the first  
2 bookmark location is selected automatically by a search and locate pattern matching  
3 technique.